

# Minutes

Subject:	Minutes of the UUEAS Union Council 20 November 2014
Produced by:	Claire McCoy
To:	Council
Date:	21 November 14
Action:	To approve
Paper:	UC1627
Purpose:	Record of Decision Making

## Voting members present or online:

J Gillespie (Conservative), J Brinded (Counterfire Society), J Thompson (Creative Writing), G Macnaughton (Debating), E Horton (Dharma), J Noble (Feminist), A Patel (Hindu), T Boatman (History), S Ni Cheallaigh (Liberal Democrats), S West (Live Music), K Collis (Mainstream Media), A Rust (PSI), J Finch (Quidditch), L Thacker (Stop The Traffik), R Drury (UEA TV), B Dandan (Women in Business), A Patel (Nightline), E West (UEA Pride), H Wareham (Ballet), W Temple (Cricket), J McCafferty (Sub-Aqua), A Alkhalaf (Taekwondo), D Bean (BIO Year 2 UG), L Fleming (END Year 2 UG), B Sparks (LDC PG), T Webber (MED Year 4 UG), E Barker (MTH Year 3 UG), S Gunn (NBS PG), K Murray (PHA Year 2 UG), S Jones (PSI Year 2 UG), C Jarvis ( Campaigns and Democracy Officer), L Tompson-Wright (PE+Sport), C Mellowes (PSI Year 1 UG), C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer), M Levene (Disabled Students Officer), D Wrigglesworth (LGBT+ Officer), T Antoniou-Phillips (Non-Portfolio Officer), S Leaver (Shotokan Karate), P Burney (Language Society), J Harper (DEV SOC), N Taruvinga (Sailing Club), M Jones (Amnesty), J Norrington (Anime), R Staniforth (Computer Science), E Folan (Concrete), D McGhee (Coscraft), L Barnes (Dr Who), T Walker (Fetish), H Mallet (Food Co-op), O Alfridijonta (Games), C Chappelle (Labour), R Attfield (Law), A-J Thurlow (Leeway), S Cooper (Livewire 1350), V Vazquez (Maths), M Lach (Model UN), A Wynn (MS), N Kudinov (UEA: Info-Provider), A Edwards (People and Planet), M Steele (Quiz), J Keech (VegBox), J Andrew (Archery), M Metcalfe (Ice Skating and Hockey), C Lancaster (Korfball), L Gilson (Netball), R Edwards (Rugby Women's), G Bauckham (Swimming), C Odey (Tennis), R Benjamin (Trampolining), K Redpath (Windsurf), P Gray (Yoga),

R McDonagh (CHE Other Year UG), D Julian (ECO Other Year UG), R Wishart (ECO SSLC), I Morris (HIS Year 2 UG), S Jackson (LDC School), V Patel (PHA Other Year UG), D Hall (GSA Secretary), T Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer), L Cody (Non-Portfolio Officer), I Goddard (Environment Officer), J Norfolk (Pool & Snooker), J Wilson (Ethical Issues), S Glakousaki (International Officer), L McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer), Y Yu (Activities and Opportunities Officer)

**In attendance:**

J Dickinson (Chief Executive), J Clare (Head of Student Engagement)

**Chair:**

S Lane

- Council begins with a moment of silence for Transgender Day of Remembrance.
- Chair informs the importance for using the #ueaunioncouncil properly and asks for silence during speeches.
- Voting will take place with councillors eyes closed in order to maintain some secrecy as motion regarding voting methods is being discussed today.

**1610**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Admin issue, societies approved in sub-committee, however, due to people being on leave and illness, this wasn't put in to the agenda beforehand so list to be looked at and voted on. (*Clarification: Rooster teeth not included in this list*)

T Walker (Fetish Society) questions whether League of Legends society come under Video Game society as it is a video game. R McDonagh (Chemistry Other Year UG) Minecraft society started under terms of a niche while Video Game Society still existed. League of Legends to be sent back to Societies Committee to be reviewed.

E West (UEA Pride) asks for more information on UEA Info-Provider.

***Voting takes place and societies are approved.***

**1611**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014:**

V Patel (PHA Other YR UG) Minutes regarding 1602 Graduate Student Experience:  
V Patel (PHA Other YR UG) asked question asked about location of Grad Centre, answered by L McCafferty

(Postgraduate Education Officer) but details of question and answers were not recorded in the minutes. J Clare (Head of Student Engagement) clarified that minutes were written up by alternate people due to absence and without the original recording so minutes were not the same as usual. Once recording is received this update will be added. E Folan (Concrete) name spelt wrong in previous minutes, to be updated.

***Voting takes place and minutes are approved.***

**1612**

**MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**1613**

**AUTUMN ELECTION RESULTS**

NUS Conference Delegates: Connor Rand, Adam Curtis, Holly Staynor and Amy Rust  
NUS LGBT+ Conference Delegates: Holly Staynor and Georgia Tomlinson-Spence  
NUS Women's Conference Delegates: Sophie Jackson and Charlotte Earney  
GSA Secretary: David Hall  
GSA Social Secretary: Siyi Zhu  
All information can be found online and J Clare (Head of Student Engagement) thanks candidates for taking part.

**1614**

**STUDENT OFFICER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Council heard report from H Staynor (Chair of SOC committee and Welfare, Community & Diversity Officer). Coaches booked by Union for 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Reclaim the Night march on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. General election strategy encouraging students to vote. Night talking about UCU marking boycott and free education, discussion panel held. All industrial action have been called off for marking boycott.  
Successful Asian Day organised by Yinbo and Stella including stalls, food and LCR event. Transgender Awareness Week, congratulations to those who helped with involvement of successful week. Accommodation: Asked the university to be part of the strategy but currently waiting to hear back from the executive team and Vice Chancellors, radical action to come. Summary of facts on censure against SOC and trustee board: Policy was passed last council to support free education on national and local levels including transport to the demonstration. After motion passed, at the NUS Zones Conference NUS decided to pull support for the demonstration due to its inaccessibility for students with disabilities and had varying safety

issues attached. On the back of this SOC has discussion and voted not to support attending the demonstration.

**Questions arising from SOC report:**

T Walker (Fetish Society) report of Yinbo commented to have "less than 10 words that are different between report from last council and the council before".

Y Yu (Activities & Opportunities) Sustainable transport policy, asking council to delegate power to sub-committee instead of council.

T Walker (Fetish Society) questions who SOC are and why they are delegating to sub-committee when they are a sub-committee themselves. Y Yu confirms that power still remains in council.

R Atfield (Law) SOC committee is made up of presidents of every society that delegates one sub-committee for each category. They meet to approve grant requests and have the power to approve societies.

T Walker (Fetish Society) questions whether the sub-committee meet other than to delegate powers. Confirmed that they met at the start of the semester and will meet again next semester.

C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer) SOC committee is not a sub-committee, it is just a committee.

Procedural motion to move to a vote – accepted by S Lane (Chair).

Vote on Y Yu (Activities and Opportunities Officer) proposal on Sustainable Transport.

Clarification on vote was required and provided by R Atfield (Law): This policy is to allow SOC sub-committee to approve or disapprove societies wanting to use aircraft travel in Western Europe instead of bringing it to council.

V Patel (PHA Other YR UG) asks whether because it affects existing policy it should be brought to council as a separate motion.

C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) responds that council will still have power and can ask for it back at any moment but to delegate to sub-committee is easier than bringing issues to council.

***Proposal passed.***

***Vote to approve entire SOC Report. SOC Report approved.***

**1615**

**TRUSTEE BOARD REPORT**

C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer) following meeting to not send transport to Free Education Demonstration a constitutional challenge was raised.

SOC voted by majority to accept recommendation by the student officer committee that they had acted within their constitutional remit when deciding not to send transport to the free education demonstration in London.

Emergency trustee board meeting called because of constitutional challenge and this constitutional challenge was dismissed by the board.

L McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer) asks for clarification on the Constitutional challenge.

C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer) responds by saying the challenge was that the SOC has acted outside of its powers in making that decision, challenge based on the premise that any decision made by council cannot be overturned by SOC. The only exception being that The Trustee Board can overturn Union Policy.

J Taylor (Online) asks for the wording of the question that SOC voted on H Staynor (Community & Diversity Officer) clarifies that the minutes, in draft format, state that "A vote was called to support attending a demonstration" with 6 for and 7 against.

**R Atfield (Law)** asks if the Officers who attended the demonstration went in the own capacity and H Staynor clarifies that those who went paid for tickets themselves and used leave to attend.

***Vote to approve Trustee Board Report. Vote approved.***

**1616**

**REPORTS FROM CAUCUSES**

F Redfern (Ethnic Minorities Officer) Turn out for Caucus was quite poor, discussed how to get greater links between the Union and ethnic minority students. How to increase the relationship between clubs and societies and the Union. Going to go in to clubs and societies and speak to them individually, asking them what they need from the Union. C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) clarifies that a caucus is a group of people with shared values, reporting views of students who identify within these groups.

D Wrigglesworth (LGBT+) Gender neutral toilets were a big part of the caucus, also looking in to individual caucuses for

different parts of LGBT+. Preparation for LGBT month in February, looking for speakers and things to do. Talks about Medical Centre and things they can do to improve. Looking to work with GSA to make sure that graduate students have somewhere to go. Thinking about different video campaigns that can be done and advertising that can be done within the Union.

S Glakousaki (International Officer) Poor turnout at caucus but good discussion had. Talked about changing Go Global this year, making it longer, incorporating more cultures and more students, trying to make it accessible for home students as well as international students. Differences between accommodation on campus, how students get accommodation and how they get out of their contract were talked about too. International fees is one of the priority campaigns and on good track. Cultural awareness regarding international students and their understanding of the cultural awareness of other countries, meeting has been planned to help with this. International event calendar, so that everyone knows the events, and more international opportunities during arrivals week.

M Levene (Students' with Disabilities Officer) Poor attendance however some good ideas. Disability history month, next month. Lack of feedback from Max so a Facebook page for the Student with Disabilities Officer has now been set up. Talked about issues to do with the medical centre and other ongoing things around the University.

S Lane (Chair) noted that D Ogunrinde (Women's Officer) did a report on her caucus at last council and there has not been a meeting since.

***Vote to approve reports. Vote passed.***

**1617**

#### **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

J Taylor (Online) comments on Chief Executive tweeting about council, C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) states that staff can tweet results but not their individual opinions on council events. Decision made by some of the officers.

V Patel (PHA Other YR UG) questions why half of the new Union bar is not used, L McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer) responds stating that the queuing system has been changed, similar now to Costa or Starbucks in order to streamline it and this means that that part of the bar is not used because it is not part of this system.

T Walker (Fetish Society) some reports that election not very well publicised and a lot of people didn't seem to notice it. C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) acknowledges this, takes responsibility and says to make sure that this is a priority for future elections.

C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer) says that this is the part where serious course issues can be raised in the future and encourages people to email him with any SSLC issues.

**1618**

**CAN I HAVE YOUR ATTENDANCE PLEASE?**

**T Walker (Fetish Society)** asks for quorum. It is confirmed that there are 79 voting members at council and they are welcomed by Walker. 98 people at first council, 102 at second council Over 200 councillors signed up and 400 that should be. Walker states that constituents aren't being represented

1.5 people on average representing a school. There should be at least 5

Suggested last year's council was not being representative and T Walker (Fetish Society) feels that it is the same this year. Proposes and investigation in to why there are not the councillors for the constituents that there should be.

Proposes not removing councillors that have not turned up to the previous meeting but an investigation to occur and then fate to be decided.

**S Glakousaki (International Officer)** makes a point of clarification, 20% - 30% of students are international students, 30 % of people who are at council should be international students.

**V Patel (PHA Other YR UG)** wondering if there is a list to view which councillor positions have not been filled. Item 67 of the constitution: says that any member of union council including student officers who are absent for two weeks without apology in a semester, when was the last time this was enforced?

**S Lane (Chair)** responds that there are a list of the councillor positions online, and to come will be a list of the vacancies too.

**C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer)** explains that it hasn't been a priority of the Union to check because of the difficulty of meeting quorum that used to occur. It would have been enforced 2 and a bit years ago.

**D Hall (GSA Secretary)** clarifies that it was brought back in the last academic year.

***Motion passed.***

**1619 MOTION TO CENSURE SOC AND TRUSTEES FOR BREACH OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, AND OVERTURN THE STUDENT OFFICER COMMITTEE DECISION.**

Motion withdrawn.

**1620 AMENDMENT TO BYELAW 14 – NUS DELEGATE VOTING RULES**

J Wilson (Ethical Issues Officer) proposes motion in regard to NUS National Conference to ensure that delegates vote in line with union policy. Council is the only body within the University which can represent students and has views with members from a most parts of the university students. Unless delegates specifically run on a mandate that includes a reference to a policy, it is never going to be representative of students like council is. When they go to conference this is to make sure they vote in line with policy because this is what students have agreed to.

C Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer) asks what to do regarding motions where there are no existing policies, and whether this would mean a “free vote” and what would happen if officers run on a specific mandate contradictory to student policy.

J Wilson (Ethical Issues Officer) replies, that there would be nothing in the constitution to say how they should vote and free vote would probably occur. Amendment does also mean that if a delegate runs on a specific point that runs counter to union policy then they will be allowed to vote in line with that.

V Patel (PHA Other YR UG) the Union send one full time officer with the delegate, who choses this officer? Can any student run for NUS delegate?

J Wilson (Ethical Issues Officer) the full time officer would be voted for by the wider student officer committee. Any member of the Union can run to be a delegate.

C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) the lead delegate is constitutional elected by management committee but this power has been delegated to student officer committee.

T Walker (Fetish Society) asks what would happen if they didn't vote in line with Union policy and J Wilson (Ethical Issues Officer) points out that it would be a breach of the byelaw. D Hall notes that it has happened once before and in



that instance council reprimanded them and removed their right to attend conference again. L McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer) clarifies that it would be a breach of NUS regulation to do this.

V Patel (PHA Other YR UG) asks what would happen if delegate voted to abstain and J Wilson (Ethical Issues Officer) responds that it would go to the policy committee if there were any queries regarding how the delegate voted.

***Motion passed.***

**1621**

**ENSURING FAIR VOTING PROCEDURES AT COUNCIL**

T Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer) asks to add a byelaw to ensure that all votes held at council are done through a method of secret voting. Clickers mean votes are accurate and have been used previously without problems. Reporting sheets saying how you voted just to those who you represent. C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) clarifies that policy that voting sheets must be made public has already lapsed.

V Patel (PHA Other YR UG) notes that votes voting methods which involve councillors having to raise their hand may prevent some from voting if they are physically unable. T Etheridge states as well, that this motion is essentially asking for clickers to be introduced and it would remove voting pressure too.

T Walker (Fetish Society) asks about those who represent more than one constituency at council, and would they have to report to both?

T Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer) replies saying that you can only represent one and H Staynor adds that you are accountable to those constituents and you are to represent their views at council.

T Barker asks about potential clicker failure, and if this would this invalidate votes. T Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer) replies that if necessary, eyes closed hand up voting would be used instead, although not ideal.

P Burney (Languages Society) asks if there are any other problems with using hands to vote and T Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer) comments on the pressure that could occur if people were to open their eyes, counting close votes, too, is time consuming.

E West (UEA PRIDE) asks for clarification on voting on the motion T Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer) replies that

because it is a byelaw it needs two thirds majority to pass, the second part needs only 50%.

V Patel (PHA Other YR UG) questions why the clickers stopped being used and C Jarvis (Campaigns and Democracy Officer) responds regarding the reliability of the clickers and not being able to judge their accuracy, alternate methods could be used if the motion is passed. V Patel (PHA Other YR UG) offers a procedural motion to vote for the resolves in parts. Council votes against hearing speeches for procedural motion.

D Julian (ECO Other YR UG) asks for clarification for whether this would include voting on the earlier parts of council, the reports from SOC, for example. T Etheridge replies stating that usually these do not take long with clickers.

H Peacock proposes amendment to change the term "secret voting". T Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer) explains the ambiguity of the words secret voting to allow for flexibility if new voting methods came to be in the future.

R Atfield (Law) proposes saying "secret at time of voting" L Cody puts forward amendment "...at the time of voting it must be conducted through a method of secret voting" and also "after meeting has concluded votes will be made available to constituents".

Amendment accepted without vote due to T Etheridge (Non-Portfolio Officer) writing the amendment.

***Motion passed.***

#### **EMERGENCY MOTION TO APPROVE ROOSTER SOCIETY**

Council votes to hear the motion.

R McDonagh (CHE Other YR UG) Been waiting for approval from council since start of term. Rooster teeth formed over summer break, found a large interest at Soc Mart and society was approved at societies committee.

J Wilson (Ethical Issues Officer) asks for clarification for why it is that it has not been brought to any of the other council meetings. R McDonagh (CHE Other YR UG) says that for the first council meeting paperwork was submitted but could not be opened on union computers, the second council meeting, again, paperwork was not submitted on time.

T Walker (Fetish Society) asks if permission has been asked for Rooster Teeth to use their copyrighted material and name for the society. R McDonagh (CHE Other YR UG) states that Rooster Teeth actively advocated their usage and he will make sure that no issues arise.

C Chappelle (Labour) asks for clarification of what Rooster Teeth is. R McDonagh (CHE Other YR UG) Rooster Teeth is an internet multimedia company that makes videos of different

kinds, for example, video games using video games. They also do comedy skits and are in the process of making a feature length film.

The question is posed by councillor on UEA's need for Rooster Teeth. R McDonagh (CHE Other YR UG) saying that YouTube channel has 7.9 million subscribers so there is probably a likelihood that there will be fans in UEA.

V Patel (PHA Other YR UG) asks what goals Rooster Teeth has and which societies are they looking to collaborate with? R McDonagh (CHE Other YR UG) says that they hope to write comedy skits themselves and to engage members in collaborating with UEA TV and possibly Video Game society.

Speech against the motion from S Jackson (LDC YR2 UG) who does not think that UEA should be seen to endorse Rooster Teeth as the stars on the show have frequently shown themselves to be homophobic, sexist and racist and have shown videos where they have been sexually harassing women and UEA should not advocate a society where this has been taking place.

J Andrew (Archery Society) asks for clarification on the source of the videos and S Jackson mentions a video called "Connect the Hots", in which they follow women in a car, the video was later taken down but they still showed it to their 8 million subscribers.

J Westby questions whether this means that the gaming community should ban sexist games or potentially sexist games. S Jackson (LDC YR2 UG) replies stating that Rooster Teeth are a brand and they have publicised this and the problem is associating UEA with the brand Rooster Teeth.

S Glakousaki (International Officer) proposes procedural motion to take Rooster Teeth to the next council when councillors have time to have a better understanding of what it is to provide a chance for research.

Speech against from R McDonagh (CHE Other YR UG) brought to council to get decision, council representative ready to start but cannot attend council yet.

***Voting to have Rooster Teeth taken to next council.  
Procedural motion passed, Rooster Teeth taken to next council.***

**1622**

**TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

7pm, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December in Lecture Theatre 2.